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Recent Soviet demarches December 11 to WEU member countries and Soviet statement delivered Bonn Foreign Office December 14 protesting West German rearmament, while following usual Soviet practice of endeavoring create dissention in Western camp on eve NATO Ministerial meetings, are clearly part of intensified Soviet campaign directed at Fed Rep. By charging Bonn Government with following QUOTE cold war UNQUOTE line inconsistent with current spirit of detente and exploiting popular misgivings on German rearmament in certain NATO countries, Soviets seek isolate Fed Rep and create suspicion of Germany both in Western Europe and among its Eastern European neighbors.

There is undoubtedly certain amount uneasiness over German rearmament among general public in Western European countries and United Kingdom as well as Eastern Europe despite WEU restrictions and other safeguards and integration German forces in NATO framework. Soviet propaganda can be expected continue concentrate on German rearmament issue during coming months.

This Soviet

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This Soviet campaign can be viewed not only as attempt discredit Adenauer and Fed Rep but as insidious and potentially dangerous attack against entire NATO alliance.

Dept considering desirability NAC or appropriate committee thereof undertaking evaluation Soviet campaign in order determine what steps, if any, might be taken by NATO members combat it. In our view would be somewhat awkward for us to bring matter up in Council and Germans might well find it embarrassing to do so. Dept would therefore appreciate reaction USRO to foregoing including feasibility having Secretariat take initiative in matter following consultation with us and Germans.

Hester (487) RTER